Children use scientific thinking skills – predicting, experimenting and observing to check out their ideas.

At preschool, children cook, explore the natural world, take apart simple machines, and conduct simple experiments.

The classroom has real objects that children can touch and manipulate, so they can explore concepts in biology, chemistry, earth sciences, and physics.

As children play with a variety of materials, they naturally explore concepts of size, shape, and number.

Teachers design meaningful activities for children to count, sort, order, classify, and make patterns with real objects.

Children solve simple real life math problems, like "How many plates do you need to set the table?

Teachers narrate children's play and exploration, ask interesting open-ended questions, and expand on children's ideas.

Thinking and Reasoning

Children have many opportunities to plan and make choices, then discuss the results of their choices.

Classroom materials allow children to teach themselves concepts such as cause and effect.

Cognitive Development in Preschool

Early Math

Early

Science

Early Literacy

Children have access to books and environmental print – signs, poems, fiction, non-fiction, and print items for pretend play.

Teachers model writing, by making lists and taking dictation of children's ideas, and provide children with writing materials.

Children get many chances to play with language – sounds, rhymes, songs, and conversations.



